

Message Text

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65

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 DEAE-00 SCA-01 /013 W

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P 092039Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4506

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3649

DEPARTMENT FOR S/NM AND SCS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC SNAR CO

SUBJ: NBC DOCUMENTARY ON COCAINE, INTERVIEWS WITH AMCIT
PRISONERS IN COLOMBIAN JAILS

REF: BOGOTA 3499

1. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT NBC COCAINE DOCUMENTARY
FILM TEAM HEADED BY PRODUCER ANTHONY POTTER FILMED INTERVIEWS
WITH AMCIT DRUG PRISONERS IN TWO BOGOTA PRISONS. THESE INTERVIEWS
WERE ARRANGED BY GENERAL HENRY GARCIA, COMMANDER GOC NATIONAL
POLICE AND BY LOCAL NBC STRINGER WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT EMBASSY
INVOLVEMENT OR INTERVENTION.

2. FROM WHAT WE CAN ASCERTAIN FROM CONTACTS WITH POTTER AND
WITH LOCAL NBN STRINGER, INTERVIEWS WITH AMCIT PRISONERS ARE
INTENDED TO BE PLAYED AS CAUTIONARY SEGMENT NBC DOCUMENTARY.
ACCORDING TO POTTER, AIM WOULD BE--PER SUGGESTION GENERAL
GARCIA--TO WARN OTHER AMERICANS AGAINST ATTEMPTING TO DEAL
IN DRUGS IN COLOMBIA.

3. THOUGH NO ONE FROM THE EMBASSY WAS PRESENT AT THESE
INTERVIEWS, WE UNDERSTAND FROM NBC STRINGER AND FROM
POTTER THAT NONE OF THE PRISONERS INTERVIEWED COMPLAINED
OF MISTREATMENT, THOUGH THEY DID MENTION UNAPPETIZING
FOOD, POOR PRISON SANITARY CONDITIONS AND NEED TO PAY FOR
ELEMENTARY NEEDS (BLANKETS, ETC.)

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4. FILM TEAM ALSO TOOK SHOTS OF PRISON INTERIORS. HOW

COMBINATION INTERVIEWS AND INTERIOR SPOTS COME OUT ON US
TV NATURALLY DEPENDS IN LARGE MEASURE ON HOW FILM AND TAPE
IS EDITED.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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